Whereas the Golden Gophers wrestling team has finished in the top 3 in the Nation in the last 6 years: placing third in 1997, being the runner up in 1998 and 1999; placing third in 2000; and winning the national title in 2001 and 2002;

Whereas the University of Minnesota wrestling team has now placed in the top 10 at the NCAA Championships 25 times in the history of the program;

Whereas Coach J. Robinson, as head coach of the University of Minnesota wrestling team, now has finished in the top 10 at the NCAA Championships 10 times during his 16-year tenure;

Whereas two members of the Minnesota wrestling team, Jared Lawrence and Luke Becker, each earned an individual national crown, marking the first time in school history that two Minnesota athletes were individual champions in a single NCAA sport in the same year;

Whereas Lawrence, at 149 pounds, and Becker, at 157 pounds, captured the 13th and 14th NCAA individual titles in school history, respectively;

Whereas Ryan Lewis, at 133 pounds, was the runner-up, Owen Elzen, at 197 pounds, finished in fourth place, Damion Hahn, at 184 pounds, finished in fifth place, Garret Lowney, at heavyweight, finished in fifth place, and Chad Erikson, at 141 pounds, finished in seventh place;

Whereas seven University of Minnesota wrestlers, Chad Erikson, Jared Lawrence, Luke Becker, Damion Hahn, Owen Elzen, Ryan Lewis, and Garrett Lowney, earned All-American honors; and

Whereas the Golden Gophers have now had 68 wrestlers earn 111 All-American citations in the history of the varsity wrestling program at the University of Minnesota: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Golden Gophers of the University of Minnesota for winning the 2002 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Wrestling National Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the team's members, coaches, and support staff, and invites them to the United States Capitol to be honored;

(3) requests that the President recognize the achievements of the University of Minnesota wrestling team and invite them to the White House for an appropriate ceremony honoring a national championship team; and

(4) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the University of Minnesota.

Mr. REID. I would say, Madam President, those Minnesotans know how to play hockey and wrestle.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2002

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, April 12; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and there be a period of morning business until 11:30, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Madam President, I also ask unanimous consent that Senator LANDRIEU be recognized for up to 30 minutes during that 1 hour of time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow, the Senate will begin consideration of the border security bill. There will be no rollcall votes on Friday.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator MCCONNELL and Senator VOINOVICH, and the RECORD remain open today until 6:40 p.m. for the introduction of legislation by Senator GRASSLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are.

PACE OF JUDICIAL CONFIRMATIONS: A HISTORICAL COMPARISON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, my friends on the other side of the aisle have defended the slow pace of the judicial confirmation process by saying their treatment of President Bush's nominees compares favorably with precedents. I had the Congressional Research Service look into this, and their research showed this is clearly not the case. This Congress's treatment of President Bush's judicial nominees compares quite poorly, at all stages of the confirmation process, with the treatment that prior Congresses afforded the judicial nominees of President Bush's four predecessors during their first Congress.

It has done a poor job with respect to confirming both district and appellate court nominees, but it has been particularly bad with regard to circuit court nominees, which is what I am going to talk about tonight.

From Jimmy Carter through Bill Clinton, over 90 percent of the circuit court nominees received a Judiciary Committee hearing during the President's first Congress. This is illustrated by this chart. During President Carter's term, 100 percent of his circuit court nominees received a hearing during his first Congress. Under President Reagan, 95 percent—19 out of 20 circuit court nominees—received a hearing during his first Congress. Under the first President Bush, 95.7 percent of his nominees for the circuit courts—22 out of 23—received a hearing during the first Bush's Presidency. During President Clinton's first Congress, 91 percent, or 20 of 22 circuit court nominees received a hearing during the first Congress.

Now we are in the second session of the first Congress under President George W. Bush, and only 10 of 29 circuit court nominees have even received a hearing, for a percentage of 34.5 percent.

What is going on here in the Senate with regard to even giving a hearing to circuit court judicial nominees is simply without precedent.

No President has been treated so poorly in recent memory—not even a hearing. Ten of the 29 circuit court nominees of President George W. Bush have not even received a hearing. By contrast, only about one-third of President Bush's circuit court nominees have received a hearing.

With respect to receiving a Judiciary Committee vote, looking at it a different way, from Jimmy Carter through Bill Clinton at least 86 percent of circuit court nominees received a Judiciary Committee vote.

During President Carter's first Congress, 100 percent of his nominees for the circuit court received a vote in committee.

During President Reagan's first Congress, 95 percent of his circuit court nominees—19 out of 20—received a vote of the committee.

During the first President Bush's first Congress, 22 of 23 received a committee vote. That is 95.7 percent.

During President Bill Clinton's first Congress, 86.4 percent of his circuit court nominees—19 out of 22—received a Judiciary Committee vote during his first 2 years. Of course, those were years during which his party also controlled the Senate.

During the first 2 years of President George W. Bush, only 27.6 percent—or 8 out of 29—of the nominees for circuit courts received a Judiciary Committee vote—very shabby treatment and certainly unprecedented in recent times.

With respect to Senate floor votes, at least 86 percent of circuit court nominees from the administration of President Jimmy Carter through President Bill Clinton got a full Senate vote.

Looking at President Carter's first 2 years, 100 percent of his nominees for the circuit court received a Senate vote.

Looking at President Reagan's first 2 years, 95 percent of his nominees received a Senate vote.

Looking at the first President Bush circuit court nominees during the first 2 years, 95.7—or 22 out of 23—got a full Senate vote. Of course, that was when the Senate was controlled by the opposition party under the first President Bush.

President Clinton in his first 2 years in office, 86.4 percent—or 19 out of 22—of the circuit court nominees got a full Senate vote. Of course that was during a period where President Clinton's own party controlled the Senate.

Looking at the first 2 years of President George W. Bush, to this point,

only 24.1 percent of the nominees to the circuit courts have received a full Senate vote—only 7 of 29.

This is really unprecedented, shabby treatment of President Bush's circuit court nominees.

The final chart shows comprehensively how poorly we are doing right now at all stages of the process in moving circuit court nominees.

Looking at it in terms of hearings, committee votes, or full Senate votes, during a President's first 2 years in office, the picture tells the story.

Under President Carter, 100 percent received both a hearing, a committee vote, and a full Senate vote during his first 2 years.

During President Reagan, 95 percent of his nominees received a hearing, a committee vote, and a full Senate vote.

The first President Bush, 95.7 percent of his nominees got all three—a hearing, a committee vote, and a full Senate vote.

President Clinton: 91 percent of his nominees in his first 2 years—again, remembering that President Clinton's party controlled the Senate his first 2 years—91 percent received a hearing in committee, and 86.4 percent received a vote both in committee and in the full Senate.

Then, looking at President George W. Bush, only 34.5 percent of his nominees for circuit court—a mere 10 out of 29—have even been given a hearing in committee, only 27.6 percent have been given votes in committee, and only 24 percent—a mere 7 out of 29—have been given votes in the full Senate.

This is a very poor record that I think begins to become a national issue. At the rate this is going, I think it will be discussed all across our country in the course of the Senate elections this fall.

It is pretty clear that we are not doing a very good job of filling vacancies, particularly the 19 percent of vacancies that exist at the circuit court level, and 50 percent of the vacancies that exist in my own State of Kentucky.

We did have a markup for a lone circuit court nominee this morning, and we had a confirmation hearing this afternoon for another lone circuit court nominee. I suppose that is a step in the right direction. Some progress is certainly, of course, better than none. But if we are going to address the major vacancy problem on the appellate courts, we must have more than one circuit court nominee per confirmation hearing, and we must have more than one circuit court nominee at a markup.

Furthermore, we are going to have to have regular hearings and regular markups for circuit court nominees. Before today, for example, it had been 4 weeks since we had a markup. Thus, in the 2 weeks prior to recess, we had only one markup with only one circuit court nominee on the agenda. And that nominee was, in fact, defeated on a party-line vote. When Senator HATCH was chairman, 10 times he held hearings with more than one circuit court nominee on the agenda. With the circuit court vacancy rate approaching 20 percent, this is something we should be doing now as well.

In sum, we need to do a better job in the confirmation process, particularly with respect to circuit court nominees.

These historical precedents give us a reasonable goal to which to aspire, and we need to redouble our efforts to meet past practices.

I might say in closing that we have a particular crisis in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, which includes the States of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The Sixth Circuit is 50-percent vacant. Eight out of 16 seats are not filled—not because there haven't been nominations. Seven of the eight nominations are before the Senate Judiciary Committee. A couple of them have been there for almost a year. No hearings have been held. We have a judicial emergency in the Sixth Circuit.

I think this needs to be talked about. Regretfully, our record is quite sorry. We have some months left to be in session. Hopefully, this will improve as the weeks roll along.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded and that I be recognized to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PIPELINE AND TRANSMISSION STREAMLINING

Mr. VOINOVICH. Madam President, I would like to spend a few minutes today talking about an amendment that I filed on the energy bill, amendment No. 3116. It is titled the ''Integrated Review of Energy Delivery Systems Act of 2002.''

This amendment, which Senator LANDRIEU has cosponsored, will streamline the siting process for energy pipelines and transmission lines.

As my colleagues know, one of the biggest challenges we face in ensuring that we have a consistent energy policy is ensuring we get energy to where it is needed. One of the problems we have had in previous winters has been the inability of energy supply to meet the demand solely because of bottlenecks in the distribution system.

Unless we address the situation, each winter places such as the northeastern part of the United States will continue to face high spikes in prices because their electric power grid and their pipeline system are both severely overtaxed. Removing this bottleneck will help stem huge potential problems down the road.

The Presiding Officer knows that one of the concerns we had last year was whether or not we would be able to get electricity into New York, into the Presiding Officer's part of the country, because of the issue of transmission lines. We were fortunate last summer was not that hot and the demand was not up, so there were not any brownouts or blackouts. But it is very important we move forward with siting these transmission lines so we can get power into the areas that need them.

The amendment Senator LANDRIEU and I have written would require all Federal agencies to coordinate the environmental reviews of energy pipelines and transmission lines so that the reviews take place simultaneously and a decision can be reached quickly on whether to move forward with the projects.

This amendment does not change underlying environmental statutes, nor does it change the environmental standards used for approving these projects. All current and future environmental laws are not changed by the amendment. Let me repeat that: Current and future environmental laws are not changed.

This amendment is based on a bill I introduced last year, S. 1580, the Environmental Streamlining of Energy Facilities Act of 2001, which would have applied to all energy facilities.

The idea for this amendment is from the environmental streamlining provisions of the highway bill, TEA–21. In that legislation, an amendment offered by Senators WYDEN, GRAHAM, and BOB SMITH required the Transportation Department to coordinate all environmental reviews for highway projects so that the reviews would take place at the same time, saving years on major highway projects.

What we are trying to do today is apply this same concept to the building of pipelines and transmission lines. Today we are facing a shortage of pipelines, and it is becoming more difficult every day to site transmission lines. While this amendment would not change the laws of eminent domain or the environmental standards, what it will do is help expedite the review process.

I would like to briefly outline the provisions of my amendment.

First, we designate one lead agency to coordinate the review process. To eliminate the duplication efforts by agencies with oversight for the construction, operation, and maintenance of pipelines and transmission lines, a single Federal agency would be identified to coordinate all required paperwork and research for the environmental review of a proposed pipeline or transmission system.

The agencies involved in this process would include the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, FERC, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Transportation's Office of Pipeline Safety.

Agencies with partial oversight for a project would provide information from their area of expertise, while the